



**Attendance**

Class	%
4JG	96.9%
4JS	96.7%
2AD	95.8%
FJW	95.1%
3RQ	93.3%
6SW	93.3%
1EJ	93.3%
1JP	92.5%
FKW	92.2%
6HH	92.2%
2CW	91.7%
4RW	91.3%
5SE	90.8%
6RS	90.1%
2JT	90.0%
3BJ	90.0%
3TD	89.9%
5LG	89.7%
1JS	88.8%
5HF	84.6%
FDJ	75.9%



The winning class of this week's attendance challenge are: 4JG with 96.9%! Well done folks! Keep up this amazing achievement!

Many thanks for supporting our very important attendance drive. This week our whole school attendance is: 90.86%.

Our target is 96%! Let's go for it next week. Together, we can do it!

**Attendance**

We are thrilled to inform you that 166 children have gained their 100% (since September 2023) Bronze award! This is a super amazing achievement considering we have had such a challenging term of coughs, colds and sickness bugs! You will receive today your child's attendance score for the Autumn term. If you have any queries about this, please don't hesitate to call into our Office and speak to our Attendance Officer. Don't forget; all children who gain 'magic' 96% or higher by July will be entered into a prize draw! Thank you for supporting our attendance drive; we are so proud of your achievement so far, this academic year!

**Breakfast Club**

Breakfast club will continue to start at 7:30am and be charged at £3.20. Please remember to book places on ParentPay beforehand as there are limited spaces.

**Headteacher Email**

For email communication with the headteacher please contact:

[cbutterworth@sandal.wakefield.sch.uk](mailto:cbutterworth@sandal.wakefield.sch.uk)

**Goodbyes**

We are very sad that today is Mr Carter's last day with us. He has been the heart of Sandal Castle School over the last 14 years and we are going to miss him tremendously! We wish him all the best as he moves to his next adventure and thank him for his hard work, kindness and love. Mr James McFarlane will join our team as Deputy Head Teacher after Easter. He is looking forward to meeting you all soon!



We also say goodbye to Mrs Coleman, our Head Cook. She has been with us for 10 years and had made us some delicious dinners over the years. We wish her all the very best as she moves onto her next adventure.

**After School Clubs**

After school club will start the week commencing Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024. Please note Recorder club will be on Thursdays.

**New Start Times**

The new start times (**8:45am-3:15pm**) will start on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

We will no longer have a soft start where class doors open at 8:30am

**Gate Times and Car Park**

A polite reminder about gate times from January 2024. They will be closed between;

**8:15 – 9:00am & 3:00 – 3:30pm**

Thank you for supporting us, as we move towards following the Government guidance of offering 32.5 hours of schooling per week. We are still in negotiation with Wakefield Council at improving the parking and traffic congestion on Barnsley Road. We hope to have more information for you about this in the New Year.



### School Uniform

Polite reminder regarding our school uniform; please ensure that our children wear the correct uniform every day. Trainers should only be worn on PE days with PE kits. Please refrain from dying/colouring hair or wearing nail polish- save these for weekends and holidays. Thank you 😊

### Thank you

Finally, I would like to thank you for a fantastic first term at Sandal Caste School. I have loved getting to know you all! You have been so welcoming to me and I am so grateful for the opportunity to be your Head Teacher. I am so excited to see what the future holds for our wonderful School! I wish you all a 'Happy Christmas' and relaxing break and look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

*Thank You*

### Phonics Open Event

There will be an opportunity for parents to come into school and observe how we teach phonics in school. The sessions will be held in the hall for no longer than 30 minutes.

2:45pm-3:15pm on the following dates;

EYFS – Thursday 11th January.

Year 1 – Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January.

### Friends Of Sandal Castle Community Primary - PTA

We know that many of you are keen to be more involved and support the school, and based on your feedback, we are planning to set up a group (friends of /association). It's really important this group is representative of the local community, and we would like to offer anyone interested the opportunity to join. -Please get in contact with the School Business Manager, Mrs Bradley.

### Twitter Account

Our school twitter account has been revived!

Please follow us: @SandalCastlesch  
<https://twitter.com/SandalCastleSch>



*Merry Christmas  
and a Happy new Year*

**HAVE A WONDERFUL, SAFE AND HAPPY  
CHRISTMAS AND A PEACEFUL NEW YEAR.  
FROM ALL THE STAFF AT SANDAL CASTLE**

Kind Regards

Mrs C Butterworth  
Headteacher

### Message from our Governor's

Before we break up for Christmas, we wanted to acknowledge some key updates from this term and extend a sincere Thank you to our supportive School community

At the start of this term, we welcomed our new Headteacher, Mrs Butterworth -who's arrival has made a significant difference for the school, staff and community. The new collective worship assemblies are very popular with the children, we've seen a record take-up on school music lessons, and all staff have been working extremely hard on our curriculum development. I hope you agree, there's a renewed energy and positivity around school.

The recent carol services at St Helen's were a lovely example of how well the school comes together with the community and church -and the children's singing, energy and behaviour was outstanding. A big Thank you to those of you who came along to support- we certainly had a full church!

This term, we saw the introduction of the school council, giving pupils a voice through their elected representatives and a role in shaping the school's future. Recently, they completed a workshop to help build the school values and it was incredible to hear the ideas on what our school means to them and their community. We're combining this with the parent survey feedback and look forward to sharing this next term.

Of course, we say one of our saddest goodbyes to Andrew Carter today, and his departure will be deeply felt by the entire school community. Andrew has given so much of himself to the school, families and local community and has made such an impact on many families. We are eternally grateful for the significant impact and contribution Andrew has made, and we sincerely wish him and his family, all the very best for the exciting next chapter of their lives.

As we think to the New Year and new term, there's an exciting road ahead, and we're really looking forward to seeing this pull together. We'd love to meet some of you at the next parent's evening in February and for anyone keen to get more involved, please see the details regarding our 'Friends Of' (PTA)

In the meantime, we'd like to wish you Happy Holidays, a very Happy Christmas, and New Year.  
Best Wishes,  
Rowena, Revd Hannah & The Governing Body.



**Help for families**

Citizen's advice bureau is here to help especially if you are facing financial hardship. Details below.

# Your Money Matters

## Advice Events

The rising cost of living is impacting most residents. From rent and mortgage payments to utility bills. It can be worrying to see an increase in our outgoing bills.

Get expert advice and support from Citizens Advice, Money Smart, Cash Wise and Wakefield Council's benefits and energy team on a range of issues, including:

- Money, benefits and debt
- Home energy and bills support
- Jobs and training opportunities

Find your local event, date and time by scanning the QR code below or visiting [www.wakefield.gov.uk/yourmoneymatters](http://www.wakefield.gov.uk/yourmoneymatters)

## Can't make it to an event?

**Contact Money Smart, WDH Cash Wise or Wakefield Citizens Advice for free advice and support on finances, bills and energy.**

**Wakefield Council Money Smart**  
01924 305 892  
[Wakefield.gov.uk/moneysmart](http://Wakefield.gov.uk/moneysmart)

**WDH Cash Wise**  
01977 724 651  
[Getcashwise.co.uk](http://Getcashwise.co.uk)

**Wakefield Citizens Advice**  
0800 144 8848 (freephone)  
[Wakefielddistrictcab.co.uk](http://Wakefielddistrictcab.co.uk)

For more cost of living support and information, visit [www.wakefield.gov.uk/costofliving](http://www.wakefield.gov.uk/costofliving)

**Drop in: locations/days/times** **Adviceline 0800 144 8848**

**9am to 5pm**

Day	Citizens Advice Wakefield District 27 King Street Wakefield WF1 2SR	Pinderfields Hospital Floor E Aberford Road Wakefield WF1 4DG	Red Roof Centre Wakefield Road Kinsley WF9 5BP	Ossett War Memorial Community Centre Prospect Road Ossett WF5 8BE	The Cluntergate Centre Horbury Cluntergate Horbury WF4 5DA	Kellingly Social Club 25 Marine Villa Road Knottingley WF11 8ER
<b>Monday</b>	Drop in 10-3	Drop in 10-12	Drop in 10-12	Drop in 10-12 (1st & 3rd Monday of each month)	Drop in 10-12 (2nd & 4th Monday of each month)	Drop in: 10-12
<b>Tuesday</b>	Drop in 10-1	Drop in 6-8	Drop in 10-12	Drop in 10-12	Drop in 10-12	Drop in 10-12
<b>Wednesday</b>	Drop in 10-12	Drop in 10-12	Drop in 10-12	Drop in 10-12	Drop in 10-12 (1st & 3rd Weds of each month)	
<b>Thursday</b>	Drop in 10-3	Drop in 2-4	Drop in 10-12	Drop in 10-12 (2nd & 4th Thurs of each month)		
<b>Friday</b>	Drop in 10-12	Drop in 10-12				

Citizens Advice Wakefield District is the operating name of Wakefield District Citizens Advice Bureau/Registered Office: 27 King Street, Wakefield, WF1 2SR. Registered Charity No. 1058086. Registered in England & Wales as a Company limited by Guarantee No. 3229145